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Carter Calls Meeting on Unauthorized Disclosures

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WASHINGTON, July 11 — President Carter summoned key members of Congress to the White House today to discuss an "epidemic" of unauthorized disclosure of classified information from Capitol Hill that the President said was drying up intelligence sources and damaging national security.

As a result of such disclosures, the President told the Congressmen, crucial foreign intelligence sources are no longer prepared to share information with the United States.

"The President cited one example of a formerly reliable source who said recently that he knew something interesting but wasn't going to tell us because he was sure he would see it in the newspaper if he did," Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., the minority leader, told reporters after the hour-long meeting.

Too Much Access

Senator Baker added that he and most of the other Congressmen agreed that as a result of the new oversight responsibilities of Congress, "too many people on the

Hill have too much access to too much classified information." Mr. Baker said that he had indicated he was prepared to review the oversight procedures to see if sensitive material could be better protected.

In addition, White House sources said that the President had directed a review of executive branch procedures to reduce both the amount of information that was classified as secret and the number of persons who had access to it.

At the closed meeting, Mr. Carter cited several examples of recent disclosures that he felt were damaging, but neither the Congressmen nor the White House was prepared to single out specific cases for reporters later.

Prompted by 'Leaks'

Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, who was one of the participants, said that the President's concern was prompted by "leaks that have appeared in The New York Times and The Washington Post over a long period of time."

But, aside from citing the publication of the Pentagon Papers in 1971, Mr. Goldwater also declined to be specific or to ex-

plain how the disclosures had damaged the national security.

The unusual and high-level meeting was attended by ranking members of the Senate and House intelligence committees and the leadership from both parties. The Administration officials included Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, Defense Secretary Harold Brown, National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence.

Pledged to Supply Information

It was not clear why the President had decided to hold the meeting at this time nor what he expected the Congressmen to do about a problem that has plagued Administrations in recent years. Mr. Carter specifically pledged to continue supplying classified information to Congress in line with recent arrangements for Congressional oversight of American intelligence activities.

Congressional sources speculated later that the President might have been concerned about some pending disclosure of sensitive information or have been trying to reassure allied nations that the United States was trying to prevent disclosures.

But several of the participants said that they were puzzled as to why the President had summoned them at this time.

Today's meeting reportedly was originally scheduled for May or early June, when the Administration was concerned about the disclosure of information in connection with the downing of a South Korean airliner in the Soviet Union. The White House was also concerned at the time about exposure of communication intercept techniques during the Korean influence-buying investigation.

But the meeting was delayed by scheduling and other conflicts and was put off until today, reliable sources said.

At the daily news briefing, Jody Powell, the White House press secretary, insisted that the President's concern was the result of a "number of situations in which classified information was improperly released." Some of these disclosures, he conceded, had come from the executive branch.

Asked if he included the White House, Mr. Powell said, "When we decide to make a leak, we make sure it does not jeopardize national security."

Mr. Powell stressed that he did not think "the Republic is about to collapse" because of the disclosures, but he said that the Administration felt it should do all it could to reduce the disclosure of sensitive information.

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